

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T USNATO 6395

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, IC

SUBJECT: DRC MULTILATERAL REVIEW - ICELAND

1. ON NOVEMBER 15, DRC CONDUCTED MULTILATERAL REVIEW OF ICELAND DEFENSE CONTRIBUTION. IN OPENING REMARKS, CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS STATED ICELAND'S TERRITORY HAD ENORMOUS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE, AND DREW COMMITTEE'S ATTENTION TO FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS (QUOTED BELOW) OF IS DRAFT COUNTRY CHAPTER (REMAINDER OF DRAFT PRESENTS ANALYSIS OF ICELAND'S ECONOMIC SITUATION).

BEGIN TEXT.

DEFENCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

NATO DEFENCE PLANNING - 1975-1979

ICELAND

THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO NATO IN ICELAND PROVIDE EARLY WARNING OF ENEMY ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA, A BASE FOR MARTIME AIR SURVEILLANCE AND A BASE FOR LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF NATO NAVAL FORCES. IN ADDITION, ICELAND PROVIDES STAGING AND EMERGENCY
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DIVERSION FACILITIES FOR RE-INFORCEMENT AIRCRAFT. THE COUNTRY HAS NO ARMED FORCES OF HER OWN, BUT ICELAND CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NATO MILITARY BUDGET.

2. THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THE UNITED STATES, IN AGREEMENT WITH THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF NATO, CONDUCTED WITH ICELAND ENSURES THAT THESE IMPORTANT FACILITIES WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE ALLIANCE. THERE WILL, HOWEVER, BE SOME REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF UNITED STATES TROOPS STATIONED IN ICELAND AND AN INCREASE IN THE RESPONSIBILITIES UNDERTAKEN BY ICELANDIC CITIZENS. END TEXT.

2. ICELAND DEPUTY PERM REP (HAFSTEIN) THANKED IS FOR WELL PREPARED REPORT AND STATED AGREEMENT WITH IT.

3. SACLANT REP (CAPT MAYO) STATED HE WISHED TO UNDERLINE REMARKS IN PARA 2 OF DRAFT COUNTRY CHAPTER.

4. FRG REP (CAPT ARENDT) DREW ATTENTION TO FOLLOWING STATEMENT APPEARING IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF DRAFT COUNTRY CHAPTER: "IN ADDITION, ICELAND PROVIDES STAGING AND EMERGENCY DIVERSION FACILITIES FOR REINFORCEMENT AIRCRAFT." HE ASKED WHETHER ICELAND FACILITIES PLAY ROLE IN US PLANS TO BRING IN 800 REINFORCEMENT AIRCRAFT. US REP (BGEN BOWMAN) REPLIED ONLY THAT ENROUTE BASE FACILITIES WERE ALWAYS USEFUL REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH TANKER IN-FLIGHT REFUELING CAPABILITY IS AVAILABLE. MCAULIFFE

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